

METHOD FOR PERMITTING TWO PARTIES TO ESTABLISH
CONNECTIVITY WITH BOTH PARTIES BEHIND FIREWALLS

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A communications scheme enables a central
communications station to assist two communications
systems located behind firewalls that prevent
communication initiated from an external data network to
establish direct communication with each other. In one
10 embodiment, the systems separately establish
communications with the central communications station
and obtain from it the connection information (e.g., IP
address, port, etc.) of the other. The systems then
directly communicate with each other using the obtained
15 connection information while pretending to be the central
communications station. In another embodiment in which
the firewalls include NAT devices that implement network
address translation, the systems exchange connection
information for establishing a new connection through the
20 central communications station and then complete a three-
way handshake with the assistance of the central
communications station, thereby allowing the central
communications station to remove itself from the
communication.